



News

Office of the Fire Chief Timothy M. Butler

645 Randolph Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

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WEEKLY SAINT PAUL FIRE & EMS BLOTTER

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For Immediate Release

This feature we call "Fire & EMS Blotter" is a weekly update of the activities of the Saint Paul Fire Department. During the week of March 12 thru March 18, the Saint Paul Fire Department responded to 727 calls for service. Here is a **sampling** of some of the emergency and non-emergency activities from information provided by the fire department.

FIRE FATALITIES – In light of a record-setting 10 fire deaths already this year. The Minneapolis Fire Department held a rare press event at Fire Station No. 6 to draw attention to this serious problem and highlight some things that residents can do:

- **Make sure you have WORKING smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. TEST them at least monthly and change the battery at least once a year.**
- **Have a fire escape plan from your home and PRACTICE IT.**
- **"When you cook, stay and look!" Don't leave cooking on the stovetop unattended. That's what causes most fire in Minnesota.**
- **Do not smoke when you're impaired by alcohol, drugs, or medications. Just like you shouldn't drink and drive, you shouldn't DRINK & SMOKE, either. Careless smoking is the leading cause of FIRE DEATHS in Minnesota each year.**
- **If you are building a new home, be sure to include inexpensive, life-saving RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS. Combined with hardwired, interconnected smoke alarms, residential fire sprinklers increase your chances of surviving a fire in your home to 80%!**

The Saint Paul Fire Department joined the event and put on a live-fire demonstration of just how quickly and easily a residential fire sprinkler puts out a fire in just 1.5 minutes!



In the room on the left, one fire sprinkler put the fire out in less than 2 minutes. The room on the right without a fire sprinkler "flashed over" in less than 4 minutes. "Flashover" is when everything in the room bursts into flames at once. NO ONE can survive a flashover, so you have less than 4 minutes to wake up and get your family out – unless you have fire sprinklers in your home.

ARSON - On March 13 a detached garage was totally destroyed by an arson fire at 5:38 on the 800 block of Charles Avenue. Damage is estimated at \$41,000. In addition the garage next door had \$2,000 in damages.



An arsonist set fire to the garage on the right which was beginning to spread to the neighbor's garage on the left, until firefighters arrived.

PEDESTRIAN STRUCK - On March 13 at 1:49 p.m. on Dale Street North and University Avenue West a 29 year old man was crossing the street when he was struck by a vehicle. Paramedics treated and transported him to a nearby hospital.

ARSON - On March 13 at 8:05 p.m. on the 140 block of Sherburne Avenue fire companies extinguished a fire that was caused by an arsonist. Damage is estimated at \$124,000.

GUN SHOT WOUND - On March 14 at 4:22 a.m. on Atlantic Street and Bush Avenue a 21 year old man was found in the street after being shot. Paramedics treated and transported him to a nearby hospital.

WELDING - On March 16 at 5:52 p.m. on the 1300 block of Eckles Avenue fire crews were called to a report of smoke in a lab building. Upon arrival, they found that spray on insulation on the ceiling of a furnace room had charred and smoldered, creating smoke. Workers in the area smelled smoke and noticed the charred insulation with no flames. Contractors had been welding in the room two days ago immediately below the area of origin. Damage is estimated at \$10,000.

STABBING - On March 17 at 9:13 a.m. an 18 year old man was taken to the 300 block of Smith after being stabbed. Paramedics were dispatched and transported him to another nearby hospital.

UNATTENDED COOKING – On March 17 at 6:14 p.m. on the 1200 block of Westminster an occupant had been heating oil for frying fish when the oil ignited. The fire was extinguished by water then wet towel. Damage is estimated at \$800.



Fire caused by unattended cooking caused \$800 in damages.